

VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION / NEWSPAPER

VOL. 3 NO. 6 AUGUST 2000

ENCORE PRESENTATION OF LOCAL DOCUMENTARY SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

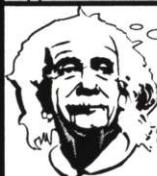
Steve Libby's documentary, "Though A Lavender Lens: Gay and Lesbian Life in the Lehigh Valley," will be shown again, remastered and with new footage, on Saturday August 5, at 8 pm, at Theatre Outlet in Allentown. This excellent film was the big hit of the LV Pride Film Festival, drawing a huge crowd and big laughs. It contains footage of key local events including the Allentown City Council meeting, the Matthew Shepard Vigil, the Pride Parade and interviews with many people from the LV GLBT community. Tickets are \$6, available at the door. Part of the admission price goes to LV Pride, the rest goes toward the formation of a new not-for-profit organization dedicated to the production of films that support and chronicle the GLBT community. Don't miss this encore presentation!

FACT SUMMER GAMES

F.A.C.T.- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together, presents the 15th Annual Summer Games "2000" at Rainbow Mountain Resort, on Sunday, September 10. The Summer Games draws 100s of people annually for a fun day of festivities and competition, with the proceeds going to benefit individuals and families infected or affected by the HIV/AIDS virus.

There is still time to register as a vendor at the Summer Games, there is also advertising space available in the program. For information or a "vendor packet," call Arlene Baron, 610-437-6433.

This year, FACT will have panels of the Names Project "AIDS Quilt" on display adjacent to the vendor area.



**CAN YOU GUESS
WHAT TEAMS
WON THE VFP
QUIZ GAMES?**
SEE 'WHAT'S THAT ABOUT'
ON PAGE 6.

ACCO
TO PERFORM
AT
**MUSIK-
FEST**

ACCO - A Chorus
Celebrating Women
will perform a
vespers concert
on August 10, at
5 pm at the Central
Moravian Church in
Bethlehem.



PRIDE EVENTS, FESTIVAL AND PARADE DRAW 4500 PARTICIPANTS

SEE FURTHER STORIES ON PAGE 5.



PRIDE BOARD MEMBERS

(Left) PRIDE Co-Chairs:
Ed Verba, Allyson Hamm,
Terry Richline, Denise
McKelvey, Secretary: Angelic
Fry, Parade Grand Marshall
Paul Kendall, Parade Chair
Micki Katz, Treasurer
Tabatha Gartner



Trish Sullivan, Steve Black, and Liz Bradbury
register people to vote and get hate crime
Cards signed at the PA-GALA booth



THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER WITH PRIDE!



PFLAG marchers included the Kohns,
the Kreiders, the Earlys, Jim Palmquist,
and other friends and family

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the
bases listed in the anti-discrimination statement on
page 9, and asks that organizations which request
VFP to publish information about their events
maintain a similar policy.



Theatre Outlet marchers
current play "RUR"



PRIDE Co-Chair
Allyson Hamm



PRIDE Parade marchers from the
LV Metropolitan Community Church

All Photos by Steve Libby



PRIDE Parade marchers from Diamondz



2

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise,

I am leaving my job, very shortly. I have a 401K plan. My partner has encouraged me to find out what my options are with regard to using this money in my next retirement plan. Signed,
New Job Seeker

Dear New Job Seeker,

Your partner is right! Chances are the money in your 401k will be one of the largest sums of money you will ever receive--and what you do with it could significantly impact your future financial security.

Rolling over into a traditional IRA isn't the only option for your lump-sum distribution, but you may find it attractive for the following reasons: You will avoid 20% withholding and current income taxes on a distribution. In a direct rollover, your former employer sends a check directly to the financial institution you choose to receive the rollover thus avoiding the requirement that your employer withhold 20 percent of your retirement money for income tax purposes if you have the check payable to you. You'll also have to make up the withheld amount within 60 days if you want to reinvest the entire amount in another qualified plan. Any portion of your plan not reinvested in another qualified plan is considered a distribution on which you'll owe current income taxes and possibly a 10% early withdrawal penalty if you are under age 59 1/2. Tax deferral of any growth in your retirement savings. A direct rollover to a traditional IRA will not interrupt your retirement investment's tax-deferral advantage. Choose from a broad range of investments. Within your IRA, you can choose from a wide selection of investments. You may want to diversify your IRA assets by investing in a variety of individual stocks, bonds and mutual funds.

Roth Conversion: By rolling your retirement plan into a traditional IRA, you may be eligible to later convert it to a Roth IRA. Conversion to a Roth IRA requires that you pay taxes on the amount converted, but any earnings henceforth are tax-free, if you meet certain requirements. You may be eligible for tax-free withdrawals after you hold your Roth IRA for five years for a first-home purchase or in case of death or disability. Your original Roth IRA investment (principal) is available without penalty.

Other choices. Among them are: Leaving your savings in your former employer's plan. You are still subject to the provisions that govern the plan on how you can access the dollars, and you can no longer take a loan (in the case of a 401k plan) or receive the company match. Moving assets to your new employer's plan. When making a move to a company that offers a qualified plan, you can consider rolling your old plan directly into your new employer's plan. Your investment and access options, however, are limited to those in the plan. Taking a cash distribution from the plan. Unless you need the cash from your plan or qualify for special tax advantages, this option generally has the most drawbacks. Taxable distributions are subject to federal taxes and a possible 10% IRS penalty. You will also lose the potential for tax-deferred growth and compounding.

As with any important financial decision, getting good advice is key. DO YOUR HOMEWORK before making a decision.

Denise McKelvey is a local financial advisor. Readers should recognize that this column is one opinion and may not apply to their financial situation.

VERMONT: A "HOW TO" GUIDE

Several articles in this VFP issue are about Vermont Civil Unions. In the September VFP we will publish a simple step by step procedure, with phone numbers and directions, so you and your partner can get a legal Civil Union. It's easy and you do not have to be a resident of Vermont. See next month's VFP.

WHAT WILL WE TELL THE KIDS?

The younger kids are, the less they seem to have a problem with relationships. Little kids can go up to each other, say "wanna be best friends?" and that's all there is to it. It's adults who seem to be very concerned about explaining things, but who use terms that are so cryptic, nobody can understand, much less a three year old.

We have the honorary, but very coveted title of "Nana" to two 3 1/2 year old twin boys. Actually they are so grown up now, we refer to them as, "The Gents." Civil Unions are the equivalent to marriage and marriage is something you share with family. So we called "The Gents" and their two moms to tell them their "Nanas" were going to get married.

One of their moms told us she didn't think they'd would understand the concept because she had just told them their uncle was going to get married and then his girlfriend would be part of the family and they didn't seem to get it. "But," said Gent #1, "she already is family." His mom said, "But then she'll really be family." Gent #2 said, "But she already is really family." It actually seemed to us they understood perfectly.

So we got on the phone with Gent #2 and we said, "Nana Trish and Nana Liz are going to get married in Vermont." Gent #2 said, "OK... we went to a fair," and he proceeded to tell us about that.

Then Gent #1 got on the phone, we told him, "Nana Trish and Nana Liz are going to get married in Vermont." There was a pause. We said, "Is that O.K.?" "Yes" he exclaimed happily and then he told us all about the fair.

Then the other mom got on, but while she was talking to us, she said that Gent #2 really wanted to ask us something. When he got on he asked, "Who is marrying you?" So I said, "Well, we're marrying each other, because we love each other." There was a pause, then he said, "But who is marrying you?" So I said, "Oh, you want to know who is in charge of marrying us?" "Yes," he said. "Well," I explained, "there is a person who is called the Justice of the Peace, and we will get a license from the Town Hall, and then the Justice of the Peace will perform the ceremony and then we will be married." "Oh," he said.

In fact, it turns out, "The Gents" know all about marriage ceremonies, because at daycare, they have all sorts of dress up clothes and all sorts of kids pretend to be brides, grooms, and marriage officials just about everyday. So to these little boys, people getting married is easy to understand, and they have a pretty clear idea of family too.

BOY SCOUTS DECISION

The Supreme Court has upheld the right of the Boy Scouts of America to discriminate against people based on religion and sexual orientation. The 5 to 4 ruling maintained that BSA is a private organization that could discriminate against any group it wanted, as long as it was clearly part of its mission.

This decision, while unfortunate for gay boys and men who wish to participate in Boy Scouting, is also ultimately detrimental to BSA. Put more directly, BSA must now fire workers and refuse volunteers, remove young people from troops and deny them any access if they don't believe in God or are gay or lesbian. Similar to other discriminatory groups, like the Klu Klux Klan, BSA must make the exclusion of certain minority groups one of their primary goals.

Employees who work for corporations that have a non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation are in a position to insist that the corporation change its donation policies. Financial support from a corporation that refuses to discriminate, should not end up in the pocket of an organization that is committed to discrimination.

By the VFP Editorial Board

HOT NEWS

MORE GROUPS SIGN-ON

The newest sign-ons to the "Statement of Anti-Discrimination" (see statement and list on page 8) are AIDS Outreach and the civic group Properties of Merit.

The excellent work of Aids Outreach in Allentown is known to us all.

"Properties of Merit" is a not-for-profit community organization based in Allentown and started by Siobahn "Sam" Bennett. Now in its second year, "Properties of Merit" continues to support the rehabilitation and revitalization of Allentown Neighborhoods by honoring home and business owners for their efforts in creating, rehabbing and maintaining exceptional buildings and homes and the areas around them.

If your organization supports equal rights and would like to sign-on to the Anti-Discrimination Statement call or email the VFP.

MCC SERVICE AND PICNIC

The Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley invites you to a picnic and outdoor Worship Service this coming Sunday, August 6 at South Mountain Park from 2-6 pm. The Worship Service, as usual, will begin at 6 p.m.

MCCCLV will be providing the food and games. Just bring yourself, friends and family. So we may plan accordingly, please call 610-954-7775 to RSVP and get directions.

GLOSS NEWS

GLOSS is now on eGroups.com, a free email group service which allows the members to communicate directly with each other.

GLOSS has created a group on eGroups.com called gloss-sports which can be accessed at <<http://www.egroups.com/group/gloss-sports>>. You do not need to subscribe to the group to continue receiving GLOSS mailings. However, if you wish to join, you can subscribe by sending an email message to <gloss-sports-subscribe@egroups.com>. To post a message to the group send an email to <gloss-sports@egroups.com>. Any message that you post to this address can be read by the entire group.

GLOSS is currently sponsoring Volleyball, Racquetball and Tennis. For details contact the hotline at 610-434-2966.

GLORA EVENTS

GLORA will be attending "Gay Day at Knoebels" on August 12. Although not a GLORA sponsored event, GLORA members who attended the event last year highly recommend it. Knoebels is an amusement park in Elysburg, PA. The park is open to the public and there is no admission. Gay Day participants should look for pavilion "T-10" identified by the Rainbow Flag. Registration is at 11, potluck at 3. Ride tickets can be purchased individually. The park has amusement rides, water rides, roller coasters, skee-ball, food vendors and tacky souvenirs. You do not have to be a member to attend. Bring a food item to share and a smiling face!

GLORA is having their monthly potluck in Bethlehem on August 20 and a canoeing, kayaking, and tubing event in the Delaware River, from Pt. Pleasant, on August 26. For details and a current newsletter, contact GLORA at PO Box 1952, Allentown, PA 18105 or <GLORAinPA@aol.com>.

GMLV PRESENT FILM

On August 12, Gay Men of LV will present "Lillies" at the Unitarian Universalist Church LV at 424 Center St. Bethlehem at 7pm. The film "Lillies," a work by Canadian John Greyson, is an impressive and beautifully crafted gay drama of jealousy, love, revenge and redemption. It is set in 1952 in a prison where the inmates enact a play centering on the early life of one of the prisoners. GMLV meet every 2nd and 4th Saturday. For information call (610)954-7775 or check the website at <<http://mcc.starplace.com>>.

PFLAG UPDATE

The 3rd annual PFLAG (Parents and Friends of a Lesbians and Gays) picnic was held on July 9th. The event was attended by PFLAG members and their families and members of many other groups that reflect the diversity and breadth of the GLBT community of the Lehigh Valley. Good food and conversation were enjoyed by all. Thanks Ilse and Allen for your hospitality.

The August LV-PFLAG meeting will be August 13 at Northampton Community College, College Center Room 134 at 2:00 p.m. The speaker will be Tracy Beck-Briggs, an English teacher at Moravian Academy, who will talk about starting the "Safe Space" group at the school.

ACCO SCHEDULE

ACCO, A Chorus Celebrating Women will hold auditions for the 2000-01 choral season on Thursday, August 24. Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 7, 7-9:30 pm, at UUCLV in Bethlehem. The 8th Annual Winter Solstice Concert will be on December 21. Additionally, the chorus will sing for several community events in the fall season. Call 610-760-1759 to arrange an audition time.

DICK CHENEY?

Editorial

George W. Bush has picked Dick Cheney as his Vice Presidential running mate. Everyone talking about Cheney, except the most prominent Republican spin doctors, admits Cheney is one of the most far right conservatives in recent history.

Cheney's actions in Washington include: voting against a bill that would make plastic guns, which are made to sneak through airline luggage x-rays illegal, an extreme anti-abortion record including cases of incest, rape, and life-threatening to the mother, and votes against Head Start and other significant mainstream education bills. Cheney even said about anti-apartheid hero Nelson Mandela "that he should stay in jail."

Most amazing to political analysts is that George W. Bush, who is a big-business Texas oil man, has chosen Dick Cheney, who is a big-business Texas oil man. Cheney was CEO of the oil drilling company Halliburton where he made, in salary and stock options last year, \$5 million.

Why did Bush chose him? Was it a decision powered by an independent visionary? Or was it that Cheney was the head of Bush's Vice President selection committee?

By the way, Dick Cheney's daughter is a lesbian. More on that as it unfolds.

k.d. AT STATE THEATRE

Don't forget k.d. lang performs at the State Theatre Friday, August 25 at 8:00 pm. Tickets may still be available at the State Theatre box office (610)252-3132.

CALENDAR 4

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, Rehearsals, Thursdays 7-10pm at UUCLV Bethlehem, 610.760.1759
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/ivals
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay & Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm.
Bowling- Monday Nights, Mountainville Lanes, 610-691-8303

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>
Enigma Players 610-432-0706
EQUAL at Lucent Technologies 610.712.5532
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 810.820.5519

GMBG- Gay Men's Buddhist Group- Meditation and discussion, 610-776-1768
GLEE at Air Products
GLASS- at Lehigh Univ. Every other Thursday 6pm, 2nd fl. Lamberton Hall, 610.758.3469
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassie. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA 18105-1952, email- GLORAI@AOL.COM
GLOSS- Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O. Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Volleyball, Tennis, Racquet Ball 610.434.2966.

GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd and 4th Saturday Monthly 7pm UUCLV, Bethlehem, 610.954.7775
Integrity- Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians Family and Friends 1st Monday each month 7pm Trinity Episcopal Church 2nd Floor Chapel, 44 E. Market Street Bethlehem. 610-758-8642

KS- Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Fridays at 6:30pm, Contact: Chris at 610-868-0248
LVGMC- Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Rehearsals Tuesdays, UUCLV Bethlehem. 610.366.3320, steveo@early.com
MCC- Metropolitan Community Church, office- 424 Center St. (UUCLV), Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays, 610.954.7775

NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, Meetings every Monday from 4pm to 6pm at CC114 (Cohen Lounge), College Center call 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 882-2531
NEPATA- North East PA Transgender Assoc see Renaissance

NCFM- New Covenant Family Ministries, Sundays, 11am, Open Space Gallery, 610-791-0716 / 740-3097, email NCFM98@aol.com
Out There- At Cedar Crest College
PA-GALA- PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Voter's Information Booklet, and Political Lobbying) 1st Tuesdays, Monthly P.O. Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449

PFLAG- LV Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 2nd Sundays 3pm 610.967.5219
Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Film Festival- In July... 215.790.1510.
Pride- Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>, <www.pride.org>

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs., Episcopal Church 16th and Turner, Allentown.

AUGUST 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	2	3 RAA GLOSS ACCO	4 KS	5 Steve's Movie WDIY GLOSS "Bricks" at Reading Theatre
6 "Bricks" MCC Picnic WDIY NCFM UUCLV	7 INTEGRITY RAA Bowling	8 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	9	10 ACCO RAA CONCERT GLOSS	11 KS	12 GMLV Film WDIY GLOSS GLORA "Gay Day"
13 PFLAG MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	14 RAA Bowling	15 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	16	17 RAA GLOSS	18 KS	19 WDIY GLOSS
20 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	21 GLORA RAA Bowling	22 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	23	24 ACCO Auditions RAA GLOSS	25 k.d. lang STATE THEATER KS	26 GMLV WDIY GLORA River Trip GLOSS
27 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	28 RAA Bowling	29 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	30	31 RAA GLOSS		

SEPTEMBER 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 KS	2 WDIY GLOSS
3 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	4 INTEGRITY RAA Bowling Labor Day	5 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	6	7 ACCO Rehearsals RAA GLOSS	8 KS	9 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
10 PFLAG FACT SUMMER GAMES	11 RAA Bowling	12 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	13	14 Reading PFLAG RAA GLOSS ACCO	15 KS	16 WDIY GLOSS
17 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	18 RAA Bowling	19 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	20	21 RAA GLOSS ACCO	22 KS	23 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
24 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	25 RAA Bowling	26 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	27	28 RAA GLOSS ACCO	29 ROSH HASHANAH	30

OCTOBER 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	2 INTEGRITY RAA Bowling	3 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	4	5 RAA GLOSS ACCO	6 KS	7 WDIY GLOSS
8 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	9 RAA Bowling	10 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	11	12 RAA GLOSS	13 KS	14 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
15 PFLAG MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	16 RAA Bowling	17 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	18	19 RAA GLOSS ACCO	20 KS	21 WDIY GLOSS
22 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	23 RAA Bowling	24 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	25	26 RAA GLOSS ACCO	27 KS	28 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
29 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	30 RAA Bowling	31 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH				

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs., Episcopal Church 16th and Turner, Atown
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., PO Box 3624 Atown, PA 18016
 610-821-2955 renlv@ren.org
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533 or 670.8029
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469
Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
Softball-(Women's) call Diamondz, 610.865.1028
SC- Susquehanna Camping Club- 503 General Sutter Ave. Lititz, PA 17543, www.paonline.com/outdoors
T.O. - Theatre Outlet- 29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
TST- Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th St. Beth. 610-867-1689, touchstone@nni.com
Unity- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV- Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VFP- Valley Free Press 610.432.5449
WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:30 pm Assorted Women, Sunday 6:30pm- This Way Out (sponsored by Equal at Lucent) 610.694.8100

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

GLBT @ VYH TEEN GROUP- EVERY TUESDAY
BOWLING AT MOUNTAINVILLE LANES
EVERY MONDAY

GLOSS
RACQUETBALL- TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS
TENNIS- SUNDAYS

VOLLEYBALL - TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS IN JULY

"BRICKS" AT READING THEATRE- AUGUST 4,5,6

"THOUGH A LAVENDER LENS" STEVE LIBBY'S FILM
THEATER OUTLET - AUGUST 5

MCC PICNIC AND SERVICE - AUGUST 6

GLORA 'GAY DAY AT KNOEBELS' - AUGUST 12

GAY MEN OF LV MOVIE NIGHT - AUGUST 12

LV PFLAG - AUGUST 13

GLORA POTLUCK - AUGUST 20

ACCO AUDITIONS - AUGUST 24

K D LANG AT STATE THEATRE
AUGUST 25

GLORA RIVER CANOEING AND TUBING
AUGUST 26

ACCO REHEARSALS BEGIN - SEPTEMBER 7

LV PFLAG - SEPTEMBER 10

FACT SUMMER GAMES
SEPTEMBER 10

READING PFLAG - SEPTEMBER 14

THE INFORMATION IN THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. WE WILL PUBLISH ARTICLES ABOUT NOT-FOR-PROFIT LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE OF SERVICE OR INTEREST TO THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY.

VFP - 610-432-5449
EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM



THANK YOU FROM THE PRIDE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

The 2000 Lehigh Valley Pride Festival volunteer committee would like to thank all the people who volunteered their time at this year's event. Volunteers generously gave their time to set up and tear down booths, sell hot dogs and soda or raffle tickets and t-shirts, and adorn festival-goers with face paint and tattoos. The committee recognizes that the festival depends upon the effort of volunteers and thanks all who contributed their time and skills to help make Pridefest 2000 a success.

PRIDE CO-CHAIR THANKS THE COMMUNITY

Thank you to all of the people that put forth their support and effort towards making the seventh annual Lehigh Valley Pride Festival a success! Pride of the Lehigh Valley wishes to acknowledge everyone's hard work and dedication. The festival is a celebration of the entire community and it takes a tremendous amount of work by many people, not just a few, to hold an event like the one held on June 17, 2000 at Cedar Beach Park. Not to mention, the additional efforts required to hold the wide variety of other events jam-packed into LV's pride month celebration this year. We wish to recognize everyone who contributed, and to express our gratitude for helping pull this year's celebration off. We thank you for your support, and hope you continue to be active in Pride of the LV's activities throughout the year.

Allyson Diane Hamm
 Co-Chair
 Pride of Lehigh Valley

PRIDE FESTIVAL FIRSTS

The LV Pride Festival lasted more than two weeks this year and was an outstanding triumph. Not only was the festival itself attended by thousands, but approximately 450 people marched in the Pride Parade, and about 350 people attended the six night Pride Film Festival.

Other significant firsts for the Festival included, the first time participation of Touchstone Theatre as host to the Renaissance Music Group Cambiata for a Pride Fundraiser; the Pride Week's calendar which included related events like the Gay Men's Chorus Concert; a special Pride PFLAG presentation; and MCC's Pride services. Additional firsts included: the 'Love Makes a Family' photo exhibit that featured GLBT Families in the windows of the Bethlehem Library, the first time any LV library has directly supported the GLBT community; the participation of State Representative Jennifer Mann (D) speaking at the Pride Fundraiser at Candida's; and the multi-college Pride Film Festival, probably the first time ever that five different colleges have each hosted a night of a week long event, much less a GLBT event.

Pride has already had several meetings to begin the preparation for next year's festival. To become involved, call the Pride Hotline 610-770-6200.

REP. ROONEY AND CITY COUNCILWOMAN PAM VARCONY SPEAK AT FESTIVAL

State Representative T. J. Rooney (D), who is part of the Democratic leadership of the Pennsylvania State House, addressed the crowd from the stage of the Pride Festival and spoke eloquently about the State Hate Crimes bill and equal rights.

Allentown City Council woman Pam Varcony (R) also addressed the crowd from the stage to present her proclamation declaring the day Gay and Lesbian Pride Day in Allentown, and congratulating the gay and lesbian population for its efforts in the rehabilitation and historic preservation of downtown Allentown.

Proclamations from the Mayors of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton, and a congratulatory letter from Northampton County Executive Glenn Reibmann were also read, although once again, none of these officials were able to attend the event.

What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editors with questions
about gay and lesbian issues.



Dear WTA, So What happened at the VFP Quiz Show? Signed
Missed It.

Dear Missed It,

The VFP Quiz Night at Diamondz was one of the great community events, with many different groups, trying to win prize donations for various community organizations.

Nine teams of 3 people each participated. Each team played for the 501c3 organization of their choice, there could be up to two teams playing for the same 501c3. The teams were:

1st Play-Off round: "The PFLAG DADS" playing for LV-PFLAG, "The ACCOLADES" playing for ACCO- A Chorus Celebrating Women, "THE 3 Bs" playing for the PRIDE LV FILM FESTIVAL. Winner of this round was: The 3 Bs

2nd Play-Off round: "The PFLAG MOMS" playing for PFLAG; "THE GAY CABALLEROS" playing for AIDS-OUTREACH, "THE BLTs" playing for ACCO. Winners: THE GAY CABALLEROS

3rd Play-Off round: "THE GOD SQUAD" playing for MCC, "GLEEFUL" (from AirProducts group GLEE) playing for AIDS SERVICE CENTER, "TEAM GLISTN" (from Dun and Bradstreet) playing for THEATRE OUTLET. Winners: TEAM GLISTN This game was especially exciting with each team holding the lead at various times. The round was finally won by Team GLISTN on the very last question which pulled them ahead over THE GOD SQUAD, winning the game by just 5 points (130 to 125).

In the final round, before the very last question, the scores showed THE GAY CABALLEROS ahead, THE THREE Bs in a close second place, and TEAM GLISTN trailing. But the last question was worth 50 points if correct, or 50 points off if incorrect, so it was still anyone's game.

If you wonder what the last question was, see page 8. Both THE GAY CABALLEROS and TEAM GLISTN got the answer. When the dust cleared, THE GAY CABALLEROS were still in first place winning \$200 for AIDS-OUTREACH, but TEAM GLISTN had pulled ahead of THE THREE Bs, winning \$75 second prize for THEATRE OUTLET.

VFP thanks judges; Frank Whelan, and Tracy Denton, scorekeeper Vita Lucid, and Lenora Johnson and Diamondz for letting us have the event there. Also thanks to all the people who came to watch (the place was packed) for their generosity. Many donated far more than the suggested \$2 cover charge. And thanks to all the teams for being part of this event by supporting VFP and PA-GALA with your team registration fee (of \$15) and \$2 donations and most of all, your community spirit and participation. Which is what makes all these organizations so vital to the community in the first place.

VFP will make the Quiz Night an annual event.

"BRICKS" WORKSHOP AT READING THEATER

Susan E. Sneeringer's play "Bricks" takes place in the fallout, literally and figuratively, of a wave of hate crimes in a rural American setting. The play examines the impact of one of the hate crimes on each character in the play, including one who may have participated in the crime.

Workshop performances on August 4 and 5 at 8:00 pm and on Sunday, August 6 at 3:00 pm will be followed by audience talkback sessions. The Playhouse for Reading Community Players is located at 11th and Buttonwood Streets in Reading. Call the theatre at 610-375-9106 for information or directions.

6

ANOTHER VIEW BY WILLIAM FETTERMAN

GAY MUSIC 1

Lou Harrison is many things -- but for this brief appreciation, I'll label him a gay American composer and poet. As with so many living artists, his work is needlessly neglected. If anything, I hope this installment might provide some interest in Lou Harrison's work and life.

He was born in Portland, Oregon, on May 14, 1917. During the mid-1930's he studied composition with Henry Cowell and Arnold Schoenberg. During this period he met the young John Cage (1912-1992). While they would initially share many common musical influences (the avant-garde and non-Western traditional cultures, their work would eventually diverge. But in the late 1930's-early 1940's, both Cage and Harrison were (along with the late William Russell) the three most radical young composers in America through the exploration of new sound sources.

For young experimental composers during the Great Depression, the promises of electronic music were at best a fantasy: the primitive electronic equipment available was too expensive, or unwieldy for practical use. Their common solution was to write for percussion ensemble. Using only simple acoustic means, these three composers created a wild kaleidoscope of sound that has inspired new music ever since.

The CD, "Lou Harrison--Tammittam Percussion Ensemble" (CDS 221), provides a good introduction to Harrison's early experimental output. As typical for Cage and Russell, Harrison employs not only traditional percussion instruments, but "found-objects" as well. "Suite for Percussion" (1940) is typical. It is marked by regular and irregular rhythms. The instruments include a gong, tam-tam, bass drum, small bells, triangles, and also muted automobile brake drums, clock coils, and washtub. Although written sixty years ago, this music remains fresh and alive today. It's fun music to bop to, and still kicks.

The CD, "Lou Harrison" (Koch 3-7465-2 H1), is a delightful sampler of piano solo works and chamber pieces dating from the 1940's through the mid-1990's. As a quick over-view of the changes Harrison has made in his musical thought, this CD reveals the eclectic, exploratory nature that makes Harrison's music so appealing. "Western Dance for Piano" has the kind of aw-shucks robust sentimentalism that made Aaron Copland famous; while the "Suite for Violin with String Orchestra" has a mellow questioning introspection that makes it ideal for serious meditation. Lou Harrison once said, "Music is basically a song and a dance," and this CD features several different modern and antique dance forms which are all not only listenable, but are quite danceable.

The CD "Works by Lou Harrison" (New World Records 80366-2), contains two major symphonic works--"Piano Concerto" (1985) and "Suite for Violin, Piano, and Small Orchestra" (1951). Here one discovers music that is tender or feisty by turns, with a balance of Eastern and Western sensibilities that inform the term "New Age Music" far better than typical pop offerings. Harrison's accessible work is clearly 20th century modern composition, while still retaining the feel of lyrical sweep so admired in 19th century Romantic symphonic work. Words like charming, intimate, powerful, involved, easily come to mind.

Finally, there is the volume of selected poems titled, *Joys & Perplexities* (Santa Cruz: University of California, 1992), which includes poems on the subjects of mythology, social concerns, fellow composers, and male sexuality. Also includes are poems for and about his life-partner, Bill Colvig. As in Lou Harrison's instrumental music, his poetry is concerned with spirituality, tenderness, generosity, caring, and concern.

It's always difficult for me to write about artists whose work I enjoy. Lou Harrison is one of them--not for his craftsmanship and fine taste, but for the whole commitment of heart his work embodies. He gives a depth to "gayness" that is rare, beautiful, and special.

A VIEW FROM A DYKE

BY LIZ BRADBURY

7

"I DO"

When I fell in love with Trish, 12 1/2 years ago, I tried to explain to my best friend Chenoweth that I loved Trish so much, suddenly life seemed too short. Chenoweth, who was deeply in love with her husband Paul (the nicest and smartest guy I ever knew), understood. She said, "When you really love someone a lifetime isn't enough." When Paul died suddenly, three years ago, no one thought his lifetime had been enough.

Trish and I don't believe in God or organized religion. In fact, I'm one of those people Will Fetterman wrote about in his column last month, who believe that heaven is OZ.

In the last year of my father's life, I told him I believed heaven was OZ and that we would all be there together someday. He also wasn't religious, he kind of laughed at the idea. But I said to him, "Everyone's idea of heaven is made up, my concept isn't any less valid than anyone else's." He said, "That's true."

When he was dying in the hospital, I reminded him, that I believe we will all go to OZ, where no one is ever sick or grows old. And that all his friends are there and that Mom is there waiting for him. He smiled at me and said, "That sounds nice." I told him to tell her I missed her.

I'm sorry these people so dear to me, couldn't come to the Civil Union ceremony Trish and I will celebrate in Vermont. Paul and my mother and father, didn't live long enough to witness this evolution of legal acceptance. But the rest of us have.

I have an older friend named Jean, who has been a wise advisor and caring parent figure to me for 25 years. I called her two days ago to tell her Trish and I were going to Vermont. Though Jean has always accepted our relationship as a marriage, she was delighted to hear we were able to get this legal recognition.

Today, we got a card from Jean. Taped to the inside were two English six-pence coins. They are part of the rhyme: something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, and a six-pence for your shoe. Jean can't drive to Vermont to be part of the ceremony, but she sent us a check. She said since she was the last of the older people in my life, I had granted her the right to, "Throw the wedding party." So by proxy, she is part of the celebration.

My sister and several other close friends are dropping everything to make the 12 hour round trip drive with us. We will probably be the first couple from Pennsylvania to get a Civil Union. It is historic.

I know I am the luckiest person in the world. I knew Trish was the most beautiful, intelligent, caring, funny person I'd ever met. I fell in love with her and amazingly, at the same time, she fell in love with me! We often seem to think as one, with a single clarity of purpose. Other times we work creatively to build on each other's ideas. We live and work together and think of each other all the time we are apart, we are a team. And it has never felt anything other than absolutely right since the beginning. Am I lucky or what?

Though we could not be more in love or more committed to each other, it is still a wonderful thing that the State of Vermont will recognize our Union as equal in every way to marriage. How exciting that seven other states are considering Civil Union legislation. Soon those states will legally recognize our relationship too. And other states will follow suit.

Of all civil rights, marriage and its legal equivalent, is the doorway to total equality. The door began to open in Vermont on July 1, 2000. I am immensely grateful to be part of it, and even more so, to be able to share this moment in history with my beloved life partner and soon to be legal spouse Patricia Sullivan. Here, and happily ever after in the Land of OZ.

HOW SERIOUSLY DOES YOUR FAMILY TAKE YOUR RELATIONSHIP?

BY PATRICIA SULLIVAN

We all want to believe that if anything happens to us, our wishes concerning our partners will be respected and carried out by our families. Liz and I have been together now for over twelve and a half years. From the beginning of our relationship we have been out to our families. To protect each other we have taken every available legal step, including wills, powers of attorney, and ensuring that all of our property and financial assets are in both our names with right to survivorship. Yet we know that no matter how much we love each other, in the absence of legal marriage, our relationship is valid only to ourselves and to those who respect our wishes, because even a will that names your un-legally-married partner as beneficiary, can be contested and possibly broken by immediate relatives.

Liz and I have decided to get a Civil Union in Vermont. In anticipation of this special event, we each called family members to share our plans. Liz called her sister Dennis first and Dennis's response couldn't have been more enthusiastic. She actually mimicked conversations she might have with potential clients in the next few days saying, "Oh, on Thursday? No... I'm not available on that day, my sister is getting married." And then she exclaimed, "This is so exciting!"

When Liz finished talking with Dennis I called my sister Shirley. At one point she made the sadly disappointing remark, "Well, at least I know now that if anything happens to you, everything goes to Liz." HELLO? What about the power of attorney, the will and other legal documents we paid our lawyer a fortune for??? And the last 12 1/2 years?? Then it hit me, without a legal union, my sister hadn't really taken our commitment seriously, and she herself a lesbian! I suddenly faced the stark reality that if something had happened to me, my sister or some other less immediate member of my family might actually have challenged my will.

Unfortunately, you can't be sure that other people, especially family members, will respect your decisions when you aren't around any more. In fact, often you can't count on them to respect your wishes when you are around. And if you haven't made wills, and you haven't sat them down and told them clearly that you love your partner like a spouse and consider him or her that way and that you expect them to consider them that way too, then you and your partner's future is highly at risk.

Will your partner have to hear at your funeral, "But, things aren't the same now that (s)he isn't here," or "What I really think (s)he intended was..." or even worse, "(s)he would have told me you owned half the house if (s)he really felt that way."

If you have never had to settle an estate with relatives, you cannot imagine how it can bring out the worst behaviors in people. History often gets rewritten, people choose to believe what they want to believe, and suddenly the people you thought "understood" even though you never actually told them, are locking your beloved partner out of what they now consider their house.

Fortunately, the State of Vermont has given us an alternative. A Vermont Civil Union makes your partner your legal spouse (at least in Vermont,) and though the Civil Union may not be fully recognized in other states yet, there is significant evidence that once you have the Civil Union you have clearly identified your partner as your "next of kin." It's simple, it's easy, and it's the highest legal recognition your relationship can get. Even my sister recognized it.

TRAVELS WITH TRAVIS AND FRIENDS- WITH GUEST WRITER LISA SMEE 'MONROE LIBRARY'

The Monroe County Public Library in Stroudsburg, PA had a "Pride" display of GLBT themed books in the center of the library for the month of June featuring topics ranging from coming out to political activism to living with AIDS. When I asked who decided to create the display, I was referred to Deb Messling. She and a reader's advisory team, select a theme once a month to highlight the library's resources.

I questioned Ms. Messling about the community's reaction to the display. She responded, "We did get a couple of raised eyebrows, but even the few skeptical people recognized that these (GLBT resource) materials should be in the library." Kudos to Ms. Messling and the Monroe library for understanding the importance of highlighting the availability of these books to our and all the community!

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Free Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VFP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.